

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 L-03
SAJ-01 EB-08 /066 W
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R 281420Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3139

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

COMMANDANT CG WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

SECDEF/ISA

USMISSION NATO

COMCOGUARD ACTEUR LONDON UK

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OSLO 0475

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, MARR, OTRA, NO

SUBJECT: CHARGES AGAINST GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF LORAN C
PUBLISHED AGAIN

REFS: (A) 75 OSLO 548 (B) 75 OSLO 566 (C) 76 OSLO 0073
(D) 75 STATE 030402 (E) 75 STATE 045667

1. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL - SUMMARY: THE LINGERING CHARGES AGAINST THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT IN ITS HANDLING WITH THE U.S. OF THE INSTALLATION OF LORAN C STATIONS IN NORWAY SURFACED AGAIN ON JAN 25 WHEN A NORWEGIAN FOREIGN POLICY JOURNAL PUBLISHED A LENGTHY ARTICLE CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT. THIS ARTICLE WAS RAISED BRIEFLY BY THE PRESS THE SAME DAY. WHILE THE LORAN C QUESTION HAS BEEN DORMANT FOR SOME TIME, CRITICS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND NORWAY'S NATO MEMBERSHIP ARE EAGER TO FIND WAYS TO RESURRECT IT. WE ARE COORDINATING WITH GON AND
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WILL DRAW ON EARLIER DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE IN CASE OF ADDITIONAL MEDIA INTEREST. END SUMMARY. END CONFIDENTIAL.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. CHARGES THAT LORAN C NAVIGATION SYSTEM INSTALLATIONS IN NORWAY WERE BUILT PRIMARILY TO SERVE U.S. POLARIS SUBMARINES WERE PUBLISHED AGAIN THIS WEEK. THE RESPECTED NORWEGIAN JOURNAL "INTERNASJONAL POLITIKK" IN ITS

WINTER EDITION RELEASED JAN 25 CARRIES ARTICLE BY NORWEGIAN PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE STAFFER NILS PETTER GLEDITSCH WHICH RESURRECTS THE ALLEGATIONS MADE IN FEBRUARY 1975 AGAINST GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF LORAN C IN THE UNIVERSITY THESIS OF MILITARY CAPTAIN ANDERS NELLEBUST (REFS A AND B). A GOVERNMENT INQUIRY GROUP SET UP TO INVESTIGATE KELLEBUST'S ACCUSATIONS REPORTED IN DEC 1975 (REF C) IT FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE THE CAPTAIN'S ALLEGATIONS. THE ISSUE HAS BEEN KEPT ALIVE BY CRITICS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND NORWAY'S NATO MEMBERSHIP.

3. IN CURRENT ARTICLE, GLEDITSCH, A FREQUENT CRITIC OF NATO AND U.S. POLICY WITH A FASCINATION FOR THE LORAN C QUESTION, REPEATS KELLEBUST'S OTHER CLAIMS THAT LORAN C'S SUPPORT FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS SYSTEMS UNDERMINES NORWAY'S BASE AND NUCLEAR POLICIES AND THAT THE U.S. WAS LESS THAN CANDID WITH NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES INITIALLY IN PRESENTING INFORMATION ON THE NAVIGATION SYSTEM.

4. HIS ARTICLE BRINGS NOTHING NEW TO THE LINGERING DEBATE OVER LORAN C. IT ADDS THE AUTHOR'S CONCLUSIONS BASED ON WHAT HE REGARDS AS CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE AND WHERE KELLEBUST RELIED PRINCIPALLY ON NORWEGIAN SOURCES, GLEDITSCH SEEKS TO USE U.S. MATERIAL.

5. BECAUSE THE STATIONING OF POLARIS SUBMARINES IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND NORWEGIAN SEA CORRESPONDS WITH THE 1957 "CRASH PROGRAM" FOR LORAN C, GLEDITSCH SAYS IT IS "SIMPLE TO DEDUCT THAT THE NEW NEED FOR THIS SYTEM WAS CALLED FOR BY THE POLARIS SUBMARINES..." ADMITTING THAT NORWEGIAN SOURCES CONNECTING LORAN WITH POLARIS ARE SPARSE, GLEDITSCH REFERS TO KELLEBUST'S CONFIDENTIAL

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STATEMENT GIVEN HIM BY AN UNNAMED NORWEGIAN IN AN INTERVIEW THAT IN 1960, AFTER THE U-2 EPISODE, THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT WAS BRIEFED ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LORAN C AND POLARIS SUBMARINES. GLEDITSCH ALSO REFERS TO A LEAK FROM THE SECRET REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT INQUIRY GROUP PUBLISHED BY THE LEFTIST NEWSPAPER, "NY TID" IN APRIL 1976 SAYING THAT THE U.S. AMBASSADOR IN ARGUING FOR EARLY CONSTRUCTION OF THE LORAN STATION ON JAN MAYEN ISLAND, SAID THE U.S. NEEDED DEPTH AND BOTTOM DATA IN NORTHERN AREAS FOR USE OF POLARIS SUBS IN THE AREA.

6. GLEDITSCH ACKNOWLEDGES THAT IN THE "CONSIDERABLE OPEN LITERATURE ON THE SUBJECT" HE FINDS NO CLEAR INDICATION THAT LORAN C WAS PRESENTED SECRETLY AS A NAVIGATIONAL AID FOR POLARIS SUBS BUT HE FINDS OFFICIAL NORWEGIAN CONFIRMATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SYSTEM IN A 1964 NOTE FROM THE MFA DIVISION HEAD PER GRAVER WHICH SAYS THAT ACCORDING TO A NORWEGIAN MILITARY OFFICIAL "...THE OMEGA SYSTEM IS OF NO SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE POLARIS SUBS. THE PRECISION REQUIRED BY THESE

SUBS IS TAKEN CARE OF BY THE LORAN C SYSTEM."

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R 281420Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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7. FROM U.S. SOURCES GLEDITSCH SAYS NONE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS FROM THIS PERIOD CONCERNING MILITARY CONSTRUCTION CONTRADICTS THE IMPRESSION GAINED FROM NORWEGIAN MATERIALS. MOST STATEMENTS ON THE SUBJECT HE FOUND TO BE VERY GENERAL, IN ACCORDANCE, HE CONCLUDES, WITH PENTAGON PRACTICE AND THE U.S. DESIRE TO SUPPRESS DETAILS ON THE POLARIS PROGRAM. HE SAYS THAT AMERICAN SPOKESMEN HAVE TALKED ABOUT "IMPORTANT MILITARY NEEDS" WHEN THEY DESCRIBED THE BASIS FOR DEVELOPING LORAN C AND THAT "IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW THIS NEED CAN BE ANYTHING ELSE THAN THE POLARIS SUBS."

8. IN A SECTION ON THE "NUMBEROUS NAVIGATIONAL DEVICES NECESSARY" "FOR MODERN SUBMARINES, GLEDITSCH CONCLUDES THAT LORAN IS AN "IMPORTANT INTEGRAL ELEMENT OF THE POLARIS' NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEMS" AND ALSO FOR POSEIDON AND TRIDENT SUBMARINES AND THAT LORAN WILL BE OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE FOR MANY YEARS - PROBABLY UNTIL NAVSTAR IS READY FOR USE.

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9. GLEDITSCH PLANS TO WRITE A FOLLOW-UP ARTICLE SHOWING THE CONSEQUENCES LORAN C USE HAS FOR NORWAY'S BASE AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS POLICIES AND COUNTRY'S VULNERABILITY IN WAR. END UNCLASSIFIED.

10. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL COMMENT: AS A RESEARCH PIECE GLEDITSCH'S ARTICLE FALLS WELL SHORT OF "INTERNASJONAL POLITIKK'S" STANDARDS. BUT AS A SPARK TO REKINDLE THE DEBATE ON LORAN C, THE ARTICLE AND ITS FOLLOW-UP PIECE IS NOT WITHOUT HARMFUL POSSIBILITIES. THIS IS THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE, AND IT IS AS WELL THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN IN DEALING WITH QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE SUBJECT. QUESTION WAS RAISED AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN OSLO JAN 25 WITH CINCSOUTH ADMIRAL STANSFIELD TURNER, WHO WAS HERE IN CONNECTION NATO VIKING SHIELD EXERCISE. ADMIRAL TURNED AWAY QUESTION AS OUT OF HIS AREA OF COMPETENCE AND MATTER WAS NOT PURSUED. IF REQUIRED TO COMMENT ON THE ARTICLE WE PLAN TO DRAW UPON EARLIER GUIDANCE PROVIDED REFTELS D AND E. WE WILL TRANSMIT TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE IN SEPARATE COMMUNICATION. END CONFIDENTIAL.
ANDERS

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